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AUTHOR	Larter, Sylvia
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ABSTRACT

The Toronto Board of Education Benchmarks are libraries of reference materials that demonstrate student achievement at various levels. Each library contains video benchmarks, print benchmarks, a staff handbook, and summary and introductory documents. This book is about the development and the history of the benchmark program. It has taken over 3 years to develop language and mathematical benchmarks for grades 3, 6, and 8, spurred by dissatisfaction with traditional patterns of assessment. Development began in 1987 with the formation of advisory committees and a literature review. Designing global tasks consumed much of the time and energy of developers. Samples of student work were then chosen to set the benchmarks through pilot testing. Raw data from standardization samples were statistically analyzed and organized so that teachers, students, parents, and administrators could use them. In all, there are 129 benchmarks in the 6 Benchmark libraries for mathematics and language in grades 3, 6, and 8. Ten figures illustrate the process. (Contains 64 references.) (SLD)

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